

Message Text

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13

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ORM-02 DHA-02 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 /086 W

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R 241111Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8338

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, IS, JO

SUBJ: WEST BANK LEADERS EXERCISED OVER LAND SEIZURE

REF: JERUSALEM 1180 AND 1069

1. SUMMARY. WEST BANK LEADERS ARE INCREASINGLY CONCERNED OVER WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE STEPPED-UP ISRAELI SEIZURES OF LAND WHICH THEY BELIEVE ARE IN PREPARATION FOR ADDITIONAL SETTLEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. AT RECEPTION FOR DEPARTING ICRC REP, STEINEMANN, SEPT. 23, I WAS CONFRONTED BY MAYORS OF NEIGHBORING WEST BANK TOWNS OF EL BIREH, RAMALLAH, BEIT JALA AND BEIT SAHOUR. THEY VOICED CONCERN AND BITTERNESS OVER RECENT ISRAELI LAND CLOSURES IN EL BIREH AND BEIT JALA. ALL OF THEM ARE CONCERNED THAT CLOSURES ARE IN PREPARATION FOR NEW ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS.

3. MAYOR SULEIMAN OF EL BIREH WAS ESPECIALLY EXERCISED

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OVER PROHIBITION OF CONSTRUCTION ON 700 ACRES NORTH OF

HIS TOWN. HE CLAIMED MILGOV COULD NOT LEGITIMATELY USE SECURITY REQUIREMENTS AS JUSTIFICATION, GIVEN THE LARGE IDF BASE JUST OUTSIDE OF TOWN. INITIAL AIM, HE BELIEVES, IS TO PREVENT ARAB CONSTRUCTION WITH ULTIMATE INTENTION OF BUILDING LARGE NEW JEWISH SETTLEMENT. I CONFIRMED THAT I HAD RECEIVED HIS TELEGRAM AND AHD FORWARDED CONTENTS TO DEPARTMENT (JERUSALEM 1180).

4. EQUALLY VOCIFEROUS WAS MAYOR DAOUD OF BEIT JALA. HE ASSERTED LAND WHICH HAD RECENTLY BEEN FENCED IN BY IDF (JERUSALEM 1069) HAD NEVER BEEN USED BY MILITARY IN JORDANIAN OR MANDATE DAYS. HE CLAIMS BEIT JALA HAD PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF LAND WHICH ENCLOSE DESIGNED TO FORESTALL.

5. COMMENT. TWO MAYORS DIRECTLY CONCERNED, SULEIMAN AND DAOUD, WERE BITTER AND ASSERTED THAT LATEST ISRAELI ACTIONS WERE PROOF GOI HAD NO INTENTION OF EVENTUALLY WITHDRAWING FROM WEST BANK AND THEREFORE HAD NO REAL DESIRE FOR PEACE. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, NONE OF THE MAYORS PRESENT COMMENTED ON THE PUBLICATION OF ALLON PLAN IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THIS WAS FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE IN SOME TIME OF RAMALLAH'S KHALAF AND HE APPEARED NERVOUS AND PREOCCUPIED.
NEWLIN

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